

of the observations of various central appraising agencies and not obtaining Environmental/Forest/ Rehabilitation and Resettlement plans clearance.

[English]

### Red Cross Society

3495. SHRI A. SAMPATH :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints regarding irregularities in the functioning of the Red Cross Society and its various branches throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the findings of the enquiries if conducted in this regard;

(c) whether allocation made under the Prime Minister's Relief Fund were also found to be misappropriated by Red Cross Society; and

(d) the total funds received by the Red Cross Society from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund during the last three years and the details of its utilisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b). From time to time Press reports etc. have been focused on alleged irregularities in the functioning of Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS)/its branches. The irregularities included violation of provision of Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), failure to utilise funds provided by the Japanese Red Cross Society (JRCS), non-appointment of a full-time Secretary-General, malpractice in the issue of relief materials to Manipur malpractice by an employee with regard to supply of relief materials etc.

So far as violation of FCRA is concerned the deficiencies in the maintenance of accounts of foreign contribution have been rectified by the IRCS, and the case stands closed. A fresh memorandum of understanding has been signed between Indian and the Japanese Red Cross Societies for time-bound utilisation of funds. full-time Secy. General of IRCS has been appointed. The Govt. of Manipur have informed that they are not aware of any complaints as mentioned in Press Reports, and have stated that these may be treated as baseless. The irregularities in the Kanpur branch of IRCS have been enquired into and explanations have been called for from the concerned employees. The case of malpractice by an employee with regard to supply of relief materials is under investigation by CBI/Vigilance.

(c) No, Sir

(d) Of Rs. 1 crore received during 1993-94, almost the entire amount has been utilised for relief work in connection with the Maharashtra earthquake of Sept., 1993. In 1994-95, Rs. 25 lakhs were received and almost the entire amount has been utilised towards purchase of ambulance vans for assisting the Government of J and K. No funds have been received during 1995-96.

[Translation]

### Water Sports Complexes

3496. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had received any representation from the Government of Maharashtra for the construction of water sports complex in various districts in the State; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN R.) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

### Rubberisation of Roads

3497. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether experiments have been done to make rubberised roads, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the quantum of funds earmarked/utilised for this purpose;

(c) whether some roads have been rubberised in the country, if so, the performance thereof;

(d) whether there is a proposal to rubberise certain National Highways roads, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the advantages of rubberised roads?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b). A research scheme was sanctioned in March, 1993, for Rs. 7.46 lakh for laying experimental stretches on Kanpur-Varanasi Section of NH-2 near Allahabad, using rubber as a modifier. The work was completed in March, 1995. An amount of Rs. 6.00 lakh has so far been released for this purpose.

(c) and (d). No, Sir.

(e) The performance study is in progress and the advantages in details will be known after completion of the Scheme.